

Message Text

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73

ACTION ORM-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-12 ADP-00 SR-02 EB-11 AID-20 TRSE-00

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RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 HEW-08 RSR-01 /097 W
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R 241435 Z MAY 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9499

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 2486

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, LE

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES IN LEBANON

1. MISSION HAS LETTER FROM WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES CONCERNING ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES IN LEBANON AND REFERRING TO SPECIAL USG CONTRIBUTION OF \$50,000 LAST YEAR CHanneled THROUGH UNHCR TO HELP PROVIDE ASSISTANCE SUCH REFUGEES.

2. LETTER ENCLOSES TABLE SHOWING INFLUX OF 879 REFUGEES IN 1972 WITH CASELOAD OF 697 REFUGEES AT END 1972 AND STATES 10-15 PER CENT INCREASED INFLUX EXPECTED IN 1973. TABLE SHOWS BOTH ARMENIAN AND NON- ARMENAIN REFUGEES FROM BULGARIA, EGYPT, IRAQ, ROMANIA, USSR AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA. STATES TOTAL COST PROVIDING CARE AND MAINTENANCE IN LEBANON FOR 1973 EXPECTED BE \$80,000 OF WHICH UNHCR CAN CONTRIBUTE \$30,000. WHILE USRP ALREADY PROVIDING ASSISTANCE FOR EASTERN EUROPEAN REFUGEES ENTERING LEBANON, NEED IS FOR ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES FROM OTHER MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES ENTERING LEBANON. U. S. REQUESTED MAKE ANOTHER CONTRIBUTION OF \$50,000 THIS YEAR TO COVER BALANCE NEEDED FOR ASSISTANCE TO NON- USRP ASSISTED REFUGEES.

3. MISSION ALSO RECEIVED LETTER FROM UNHCR REFERRING TO WCC LETTER, CONFIRMING NEED, AND ENDORSING WCC
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REQUEST TO USG FOR \$50,000 CONTRIBUTION.

4. DISCUSSIONS WITH UNHCR GENEVA REVEAL IT VERY
RELUCTANT REQUEST AUTHORITY FROM ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FOR USE INCREASED FUNDS FOR THESE REFUGEES IN VIEW
NECESSITY MAKE SUCH REQUEST PUBLIC AND POLITICAL DELICACY
OF PROBLEM IN LEBANON AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.

5. IF EMBASSY BEIRUT HAS NO OBJECTIONS TO SUCH USG
CONTRIBUTION, AND ASSUMING FUNDS AVAILABLE, MISSION
RECOMMENDS DEPT. ATTEMPT MEET REQUEST AND MAKE
CONTRIBUTION IN SAME MANNER AS LAST YEAR (SEE KELLOGG- UNHCR
LETTER OF APRIL 26, 1972).

6. PLEASE ADVISE. BASSIN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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